

"Cucumbers, Onions & Garlic"

Text: Numbers 11:5,

"We remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic."

Scripture: Numbers 11:1-9

Who would think that something as common as an onion would play an important role in the life of a people? Or for that matter, cucumbers, and garlic as well? But strangely enough we read of it in the 11th chapter of Numbers, which we read as our scripture, ~~and xxxxxxxxxx from xxxxxx~~ for this morning. We can see from this episode that man has not changed too drastically in his behaviour in the more than 3000 years since this was written. But let us look at what is being said and done here.

In ~~the xxxxxxxxxx~~ of this chapter we read of the complaining of the people about their present lot in ~~the xxxxxxxxxx~~ as they were wandering in the wilderness. ~~wandering xxxxxxxxxx~~ They were going from Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea. ~~at this time. The xxxxxxxxxx of the xxxxxxxxxx displeased God~~

In this group of people were to be found some who were outsiders. In other words they were not Israelites, and they are identified as "the mixed multitude" in the KJV. In the RSV they are called "rabble" and the Living Bible identifies them as Egyptians. These people were from Egypt, and very easily could have been classified as Egyptians, but whether they were actually all Egyptians is not known. All that can be really determined, is that they were some of the outcasts of Egypt, as were the Israelites with whom they lived. ~~xx~~ They have been identified as "Riff Raff" by a Jewish scholar. But the mixed multitude and the Israelites began to become a little "Homesick" for the land from which they had fled. They began to look back and remember some of the things they had left behind. They said, (read text) and also verse 5. They were saying that the familiar things they formerly ate were not available, and there was no longer the variety of food they formerly had and the manna which was being supplied by God, was beginning to become too much of the same OLD

thing. The poorer class of people, or the working class ~~which~~ which these people were, ate (read from list in Bible), bread, (made of millet or maize), milk, new cheese, eggs, small salted fish, cucumbers, melons, gourds of a great variety of kinds, leeks, ~~onions~~, beans, chick peas, lupins, the fruit of the black egg-plant, lentils, dates and pickles. As well as garlic. In fact it is said that it is almost impossible to find a native servant in Palestine who can refrain from eating garlic with almost everything. Thus we can see why the people complained of not having the fish which abounded in Egypt, as well as the cucumbers, onions and garlic.

What this also shows is that these people were continually looking backward, and lamenting their lot in life, instead of looking ahead to the blessings that would come in the future from Almighty God. But can we not see ~~the~~ the people of this day and age doing and acting in the same manner? Can we not perhaps see ourselves on display in this portion of scripture?

How many times have you heard, or even remarked yourself about how things used to be? The so called "Good old days."

I wonder how many of us would really like to go back to kerosene lanterns, houses without central heat, outside plumbing, and some of the other things that were back in the "Good old days?"

We have problems with our culture and our way of life and we all agree to this, but I believe it is more to be desired than living in a house that had only one heated room, the kitchen. Or taking a bath once a week in a washtub in the middle of the kitchen. Or thawing out frozen pipes in the winter, and many of the other inconveniences that were to be had in those days.

Our present day conditions ^{have} ~~has~~ prompted many, many people to take that backward look, and to yearn for the "Cucumbers, Onions, and Garlic" of Egypt. We tend at ~~this~~ the beginning of the new year to look back and to reminisce about past days, and share our dread for the unknown days of the future. Reminiscence is fine, but we cannot live in the past. What is gone, is merely that, gone and cannot be relived or reclaimed.

What is needed instead, is a forward looking positive approach to 1975. Sure, we have weathered some very bad days in the year just past. One of the men at Bible Study yesterday morning, made the classic remark that we should rejoice, because 1974 is over. The predictions ~~of~~ for 1975 in many respects are not too bright, and we are told things may get worse instead of better. Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls." And they are indeed.

The great depression of 1929 on, saw many, many people buckle under the strain and end it all by jumping from buildings and bridges by the hundreds. Someone has remarked that if we had another depression of such proportion, there would be twice as many destroying themselves. Perhaps that estimate is right. But one thing is for certain, and that is we have all become accustomed to living in affluence, and if our affluence is suddenly taken away, ~~we~~ our very existence will be threatened. Our young people have been raised in a society in which most of them have never seen or lived through hard times. In many ~~of~~ respects this has caused problems for some of them, for they desire to launch out in their married life with a new house, a new car, and everything Mother and Dad ~~xx~~ have, which took them 10, 15, 20, or more years to accumulate. We have seen young people tear down, and burn and destroy, simply because of their impatience to change things for the better. But we have also seen ~~the world market~~ ~~change radically, because of blackmail with~~ shortages created because of the greed of some large industries, and of ~~the greed of~~ some individuals. We have seen large scale corruption in government on all levels. All of this has come about mainly because we are accustomed to having much and the desire has been to have more, and more in all ages and levels of society.

So when we look back and yearn for the things of yesteryear that we equate with making ~~xx~~ our society a better one or a better one in which to live, we are looking in the wrong direction. Instead of looking and thinking of

things, we need instead to be looking and thinking of values. We have lost our sense of values, and this is at the root of our problems. We no longer accept honesty as the best policy, but instead accept using whatever means to accomplish our end. We no longer completely accept morality how we should live and govern our lives, but we accept instead, "doing your own thing," or "whatever turns you on," as our rule of living. We no longer seek to live by what God would have us do as a nation and as individuals, but by looking to Messiahs in government and business. And we wonder why the world is in such a mess. But all is not lost. There is yet hope. But the cure is not easy and it may require some sacrifice on our part. We are told by government officials that we mayb have to ~~xx~~ tighten our belts a bit. Perhaps this is what is bothering most people, because we have not had to do this since the days of the depression. But people did it then and it can be done again if need be.

Jesus taught us that whatever we sow, that is what we are going to reap. We have sown all of the seeds that have now grown to maturity and are causing the problems, and so we now must cope with them. To those who ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ do not have Christ in their lives, they have nothing to look forward to in 1975. But to those who do, we have the promise, that, "Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world." The world is coming to an end, and God's plan and purpose is being worked out each minute of each day. The times we are going through have been predicted many times in God's word, and nothing can stop God's plan from being fulfilled.

Now if all of this sounds like a prophecy of doom, so be it. But I look upon it as an opportunity to get right with God. We know not what the next moment or the next day may bring forth. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ could be today, or tomorrow, or sometime this year. The time nor hour makes ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is of any consequence. What is important is that we have the opportunity to look back to the "Cucumber, Onions and Garlic,"

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS JANUARY 5, 1975
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
RICKY VINROE, TERRY MCCLIMANS - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "GOD HIMSELF IS WITH US" PEERY
SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 123 "AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD"

*ACSCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY No. 551 Brot Bibles?

SCRIPTURE LESSON: NUMBERS 11: 1-9 Read Gen?

HYMN No. 126 "THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "CONSECRATION" WILSON

SOLO: "OLD RUGGED CROSS" (TENOR SAXAPHONE -ROL THOMPSON)

SERMON: "CUCUMBERS, ONIONS, AND GARLIC"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 299 "LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL!"
*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "TUNE FOR A TRUMPHE" MARTIN

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. DAVID RENSEL IN MEMORY OF "GRANDPARENTS" ARCH AND NORA RENSEL.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KANUER, CHARLES PENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. CHARLES PENAR WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY. *UNKOWNED TISSUE NITE NORMA KUNIGA*
NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. SHARON *GORDON IN HUP.* STAUFFER AND LAUREL STAUFFER. *EDUAR HAMPTON*

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 180. *FLAWN MCHILLIANI - ST*

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. EMMA HEGINBOTHAM, MRS. GRACE - *WIFE NARR* CHARLTON, MRS. DOROTHY NICHOLAS. MR. & MRS. BRUCE FENCIL BROUGHT THEIR NEW BABY HOME - 312 HICKORY ST.

MON. - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE

WED. - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

THURS. - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - ALL MATERIAL TO BE IN BY WEDNESDAY.

FRI. - 9:30 P.M. - ARC WILL GO BOWLING - BOWLAWAY LANES - LUNCH AT THE BOWLAWAY AFTERWARDS. RICHARD BARTONS ARE IN CHARGE OF BOWLING PARTY.

ALL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT - PRES. OR V. PRES. TODAY AT 1:30 TO SET UP THE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR BOOK - THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT THIS ALSO INCLUDES PRES. V. PRES. SEC'y. AND TREAS. ON COUNCIL.

THE COMMITTEES WILL BE SET UP AT 3:00 P.M. TODAY AFTER THE PROGRAM CALANDAR - THIS INCLUDES THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF COUNCIL AND TREASURERS.

ALL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD HAVE REPORTS IN FOR YEARBOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE CONGREGATIONAL DINNER AND MEETING IS SET FOR JANUARY 26 AT 5:30 P.M. WE ARE RUNNING CLOSE TO SCHEDULE, - SO PLEASE GET THEM READY AND IN.

PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY MORE 1974 ENVELOPES - THE ONLY ONES TO BE POSTED NOW ARE FOR 1975.

THE MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER - JAN. AND FEB. HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE, HOWEVER, WE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE HERE IN TIME TO SEND OUT WITH THE NEWSLETTER.

BIRMINGHAM Welcome visitors: sign car book greet people next to you.

grt dep 29 saw many buckle und str end by jump 2
 bldg bridge
 Some1 say if another dep twice many do so
 Perhaps rt
 1 thing cert we all accust liv in affluence
 & if affl sudd take away, very exist threten
 ygs peop raise societ which most never seen/lived
 hal time
 many respect cause probs 4 them,
 they desire launch marria new hous/car etc,
 like mom/dad, who work 10 - 15- 20 yr 2 do
 have seen ygs peop tear dn/destroy/burn Bcause imp
 2 change things 4 better
 But also seen shortage creat Bcause greed sum lge
 indus & sum indivs
 seen lge scale corrup govt all levels
 all this mainly Bcause we accus hav much/desire
 have more/more in all ages levels society
 So when look back yern 4 things yesteryr that we
 equate with max societ better 1/better 1 which live,
 we look wrong direc
 insted look/think things, need insted look/think
 values
 We lost sens valus this at root prob
 no longer accep honesty best policy
 insted accep use what means accompl end
 no long compl accep morality how shud live gov liv
 accep insted, "do own thing" "what turns on"
 as rule of liv
 no long live what God wud have do as nat & indiv
 Insted look Messiahs gov & business
 then wonder why world in mess
 But all not lost, there yet hope
 cure not easy, may req sum sacrif our parts
 We told gov official may have titen belt
 Perhaps this bother peop,
 no hav do since dep, but did then & can do again
 Js taught What Sow Will Re-P,
 We sown seeds & now mature & now must reap them
 2 those who no hav Xp in lives nothing look 4 75
 those do have promise, "Lo I am with you always,
 even unto the end of the world."
 world come 2 end, G plan purp be worked out ea
 min ea day
 Times pred many time G's Word, which we go thr
 nothing stop G's plan B fulfill

"Cucumbers, Onions, and Garlic"

Text: Numbers 11:5,

W remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt
 freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks
 and the onions, and the garlic.

Who think comm onion import role life peop?
 Or cucum/garlic as well?
 in 11th chap Num read as scrip this AM
 man no change much 3800+ yrs

In chap read peop complain/2nd yr wander/Kadesh-Bar
 nea.

some group outsiders, "Mixed Multitude" KJV
 "Rabble" RSV/ Egyptians Living Bible
 whatever, they outcasts Egypt
 called "Riff Raff" Jew Scholar
 Mixed Mult & Isites homesick Egypt
 looked back & remem sum things left behind

(Read text & vs 6)

They say these no avail/no varie/manna same old
 (read list foods in bible)
 Say, native Pales eat garlic almost everything

Peop complain no same food Egypt
 "continually look backward

Can we no see peop this day do same
 " " " selves on display this scrip?
 How many time hear/say, how thing used B
 "Good old days"

Har probs culture/way life, how many want go back,
 Kei sene lamp/no central heat/out plumb.
 Present day better desired than, houses one heat rm
 take bath 1ce wk tub in kit/thaw froz pipe etc.

Pres. day cond prompt many/many peop look back &
 yearn for "Cuc, Onions & Garlic" of Egypt
 Tend beg yr look back remin past day & share dred
 of unknow future

Remin fine but cannot live past
 what gone, merely that, gone cannot relive/reclai
 what need insted, forward look approach 75

Sure, wether bad day yr past

Bible study man, "rejoice 74 over"
 (red 75 not 2 brite/told things get worse B4 bette

Tom Faine "These are the times that try men's souls"
 they are indeed

If sound like prophecy doom, so B it

3

I look as opp get rt G

We know not what next moment/day bring forth

2nd coming Js Xp culd B 2day, 2morrow/this yr

time nor hour of any consequence

What more import we have opp look bak to "Cucum,
Onions & Garlic" of yester,

o 2 look ahed to glori etern await all who come Xp

75 stretch B4 us vast unchart C

Ea day unfold nu revel those ope harts 2 G

Can B yr rich fulfill/enjoy, regard cloudy dreary

news may come politic/world trade/business deals

But can only be rich/reward/fulfill, if resolve

seek G's guidance in His Word

by come Him thru Xp daily prayer

& desire live 4 Him, & hav Xp daily companion
in lives

Decision ours

Perhaps sum feel want 75 B diff

" " not sure relationship Xp

" " feel need answers 2 life

May B sum want reded lives to Xp

In moment give chance come forward,

if want speak me private may do so

just get up & come forward

good way 2 start new yr

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.